

Module 7 – Usability Review

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Chris Ryan and Katie Cox were my group mates, and they seemed to disapprove of my design decisions. My colors were fine, as was my header font Oregano, but they did not like my choice of Bookman Old Style as my content text font. They also disliked my black background. Even though they said it looked cool with my royal blue headers, Katie said that it would not look as if my site was contained. We discussed the royal blue box outline on my landing page at length and tried to figure out ways to have the same affect but without the awkward box. Katie and Chris suggested using a vertical line, following the theme of the horizontal line between my header and navigation.

I took all of their ideas into consideration. I understand about the black background, but I think it looks fine on my course site, and I really like the royal blue header against the black. I also like my content font selection, Bookman Old Style, because it contrasted the header, being a serif font, but also because it is a clean, simple, professional-looking font. I did make a major change on my landing page, though. I removed the awkward box to the right completely. I allowed the “About Me” section to take up the entire content area, so that it now matches the samples pages and the resume page by only having one column of content. I moved my picture to the top right of the “About Me” section, creating to general areas of text: a short rectangle of text to the left of my picture, and a screen-length rectangle of text that flows under my picture.

I realized that the main point of this portfolio website is for people to learn about me, and then contact me! After all, this is a resume expanded into a website. If someone were looking at my samples or my resume and wanted to contact me, he or she would have to return to the landing page to find my contact information. By relocating my contact icons to my footer, they will appear on every page, allowing visitors to see ways to contact me no matter what content they are looking at. These changes are only reflected on my Design comp REVISED: landing page, but the new footer will appear on all of my portfolio website’s pages.



I did not actually find Chris and Katie's review helpful. I had shown my father my design comps, as he has worked on application and website designing before. His review was more helpful and easier to understand, as he had definitive reasons for why to change certain things. He gave me the idea to implement vertical lines in the footer to separate the contact icons and the copywrite statement. This experience shows me that for a usability review to be helpful to me, I need clear explanations from an experienced user and designer, rather than reasons based on others' personal design preferences. I also learned that some designers want to keep their sites very simple, with as few colors and as little navigation required as possible, whereas others are okay with more color variation and more pages to look through for different content.